



**Archeological Survey
of the
Pecan Hill Subdivision**

By

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SUBMITTED TO

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By

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Introduction

An archeological survey was made of the 7.33 acre Pecan Hill Subdivision property on November 11 by Abasolo Archeological Consultants to assess the impact of the development on site 41BX694 (Fig. 1). The author conducted a pedestrian survey of the property and made shovel probes in the site area in order to define the site's northern extent. Based on the field investigation, it is my assessment that the main part of 41BX694 lies to the south of the property line of the Pecan Hill Subdivision and that the development will not have a significant impact on the site.

Survey Results

Site 41BX694 is a prehistoric site that covers an estimated 60,000 square meters between Whitby Road and Eckhert Road and extending onto the church property to the east (Fig. 2). The concern was that the site may extend into the project area to the north. This archeological site was recorded by Dr. Thomas Hester in 1985 after being reported to him by a Mr. Bill Batto. Dr. Hester's map of the site is shown in Figure 2. Mr. Batto had collected numerous artifacts from the site including named projectile point styles Nolan, Bulverde, Pedernales, Montell, and Frio. Cross-dates of these artifact styles in Mr. Batto's collection indicate the prehistoric occupation of the site could date from about 5,000 to 2,000 years ago (Turner and Hester 1999).

A trace of prehistoric cultural material including burned rocks and a few flint chips was found within the project area during the course of my inspection. Six shovel probes were excavated mostly paralleling the property line bordering the church property, the location of two within the Pecan Hill Property are shown in Figure 1. These probes were deemed necessary to determine the density and extent of cultural material on the Pecan Hill Development tract. It was possible to determine from the tests that artifact density (especially burned rock) increased south of the Pecan Hill Development property line and decreased significantly north of the property line. Possibly intact buried deposits do occur south of the property line. Shovel probes and exposures also showed the soil mantle to be shallow, from less than 20 cm to about 30 cm in depth, and overlying exfoliated limestone bedrock.

Burned rock and chert (flint) chips are indicators of prehistoric archeological sites in the Hill Country and Edwards Plateau. Burned rocks are the result of their use by prehistoric Indian groups for stone-lined hearths used in earth oven baking (Black et al. 1997). When these hearths and earth ovens are disturbed either by subsequent prehistoric activity, erosion, or other agencies, the rocks become scattered across the surfaces. Shallow deposits marked by scattered burned rocks do not ordinarily yield intact cultural material with contextual integrity. Deeper soils, however, often contain intact hearth features that can yield significant information on the food habits and cultural life ways. It is in the latter cases when the possibility that intact features may be found that careful archeological scrutiny is warranted. As for 41BX694, scattered burned rocks indicate that hearth features were once present but became disturbed by either human or natural agencies. While possible intact cultural deposits were noted near the south end of the Pecan Hill Subdivision property line, these deposits are shallow. It is possible that intact hearth features do occur at the site but it is doubtful that these features would have contextual integrity due to the shallowness of the soils. This assessment will need to be verified by further investigations, however, when the property on which the most intact portion of 41BX694 lies south of the Pecan Hill Subdivision is developed.

After reviewing the survey results and site survey form it is this archeologists assessment that the surface at the site has been relatively stable for a long period of time. While some archeological materials are slightly buried beneath the surface within the project area, it is highly unlikely that further archeological investigation would reveal significant new information.

Summary and Recommendations

In summary, field inspection was carried out by Abasolo Archeological Consultants to assess the impact of Pecan Hill Subdivision Development on archeological site 41BX694. While there was a trace of prehistoric cultural material on the property, it is largely surface in nature. Probes demonstrated that burned rock did occur at a depth of 20 cm in

a test probe near the south property line, but that exfoliated limestone bedrock occurred at 30 cm. The main part of site 41BX694 that may contain buried intact deposits lies on the adjacent property to the south. Therefore, Pecan Hill Subdivision development will impact only the northern periphery of the site. Nevertheless, the city archeologist should be consulted if concentrations of burned rock are encountered during road construction and tree removal,

Acknowledgments

Mr. Jason Arechiga of Hillstar Investments has been most helpful in providing information and assistance for the archeological survey of Pecan Hills Subdivision property. Dr. Thomas R. Hester, who originally recorded 41BX694 also provided critical information regarding the site from his original assessment.

References Cited

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1997 *Hot Rock Cooking on the Greater Edwards Plateau: Four Burned Rock Midden Sites in West Central Texas*. Texas Archeological Research Laboratory, The University of Texas at Austin Studies in Archeology 22, and the Texas Department of Transportation Environmental Affairs Department Archeology Studies Program Report 2. Austin.

Turner, E. S. and T. R. Hester

1999 *A Field Guide to Stone Artifacts of Texas Indians*. Gulf Publishing Company. Houston.

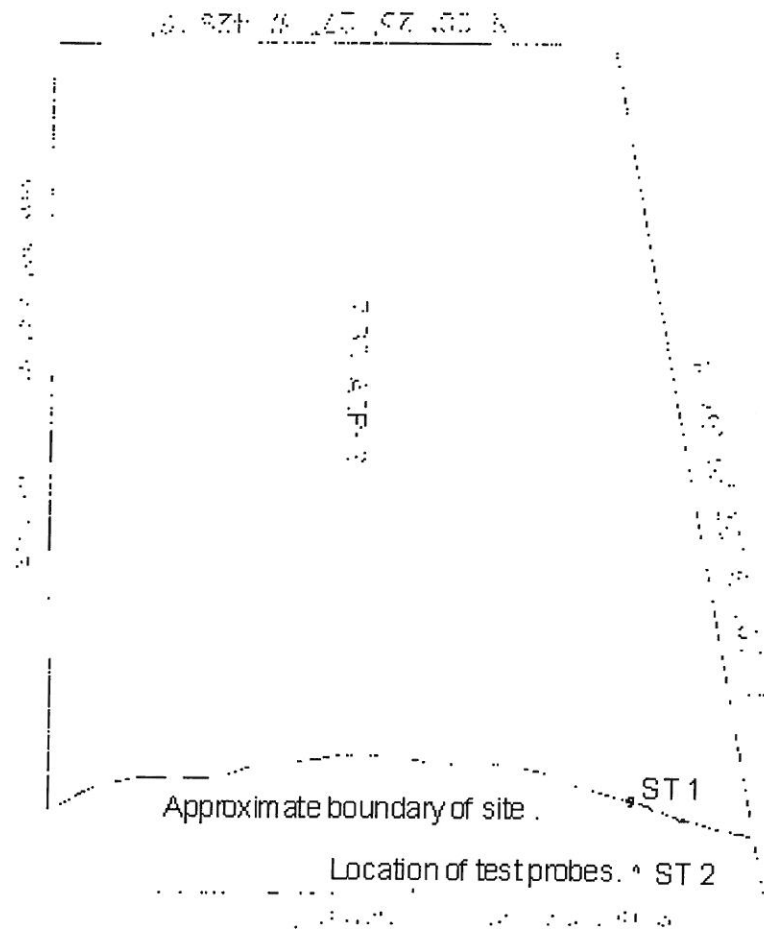


Figure 1. Map of Pecan Hills Development property showing location of the northern fringe of site 41BX694 and location of shovel probes 1 and 2.

FOURTH SITE No. 41BX694

SKETCH MAP OF SITE AND SURROUNDING TOPOGRAPHIC FEATURES (include North arrow and a scale, even if map was not made on site). Attach photocopy of topographic map showing site location.

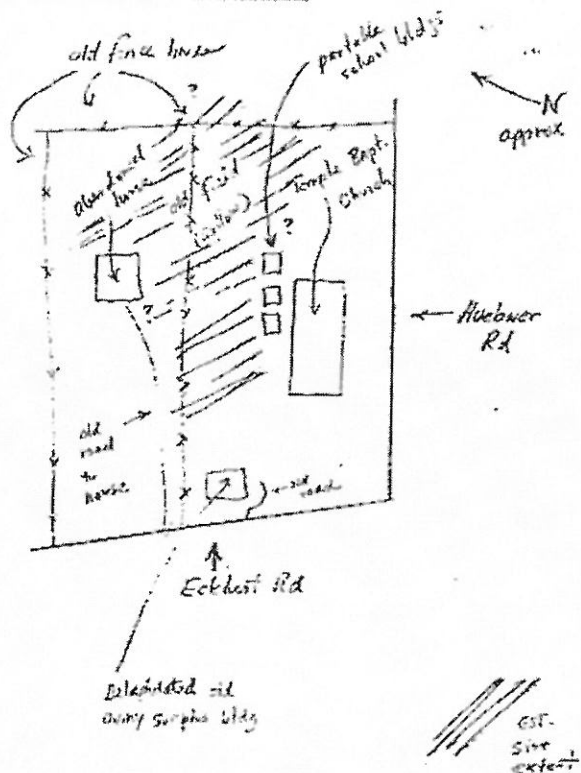


Figure 2. Site sketch map of 41BX694 made by Thomas R. Hester in 1985.

IMAGE RESTRICTED

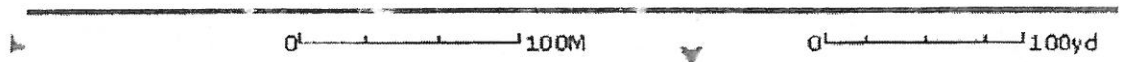


Figure 3. Aerial perspective showing location of 41BX694.